

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO*

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

Vol. VIII, No. 6, June 1910

From Some Editorial Notes:

Notice.—The statement has been made by sundry persons who should know better, that the accounts of the Society have never been investigated. This is absolutely untrue. Every item of income or expense has been accounted for and examined by an expert accountant, beginning in May, 1905. The books are closed on the 31st of December of each year and turned over to an expert accountant, who is employed by the Council for that purpose. . . .

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Medical Defense.—The most important action of the House of Delegates at the last meeting, Sacramento, April 20, 1910, was undoubtedly the establishment of medical defense on a permanent basis. The experience of other states and our own experience since last July have shown conclusively that all members may be defended in all suits for alleged malpractice for a comparatively small sum per annum. . . .

The plan adopted is very simple; there are but three requirements. First, you must be a member in good standing, dues paid in your county society, and you must have been in good standing at the time the alleged malpractice was committed. Second, the alleged malpractice must have occurred after you became a member of the society, or after the first day of July, 1909. Third, you must send to the secretary of the State Society, within forty-eight hours after you are served in any suit, a full, true and correct copy of the complaint together with a full statement of all the facts in the case. Is there anything difficult about any of these requirements? Pay your dues and keep them paid; notify the office of the Society promptly when you are sued or a suit is threatened. That is all there is to it. You will be put to no additional expense other than your dues. . . .

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Easy Money.—Schemes innumerable there are for separating money from people. One is again reminded of the historic, if unflattering, remark of a New York police inspector when he raided the establishment of a notorious "sure-thing operator": "Preachers, doctors, and lawyers are the easiest suckers there are." . . .

James H. Parkinson, M.D., President, 1909-1910.—President Parkinson was born in Dalkey, County Dublin, Ireland, October 28, 1859, his father being Henry Parkinson, barrister-at-law, and his mother, Henrietta Flood. Both his grandfathers were physicians, and one granduncle, whose name is usually associated with Flood's interarticular ligament of the shoulder joint. He received his education at private schools, passing the entrance examination of the Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland, from Kingstown school. . . .

In 1887 Doctor Parkinson founded the *Sacramento*, later the *Occidental Medical Times*, and continued as its editor until it ceased publication in 1904. Doctor Parkinson was elected president of the State Society in April, 1909, and presided at the sessions at Sacramento, April, 1910.

* This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association work some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

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BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA*

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M.D.

Secretary-Treasurer

News

"Following anti-foreign manifestations of five thousand French students in the Latin Quarter, the Chamber of Deputies is discussing a bill providing that naturalized foreigners cannot practice as doctors in France until ten years after their naturalization. However, those having done important military service in the French Army, and also students duly inscribed at the date the law is promulgated, may be exempted from this restriction." (Press dispatch, dated Paris, April 20, and printed in the *San Francisco Examiner*, April 21, 1935.)

"While members mimicked the barks of dogs, the Assembly yesterday refused to bring from the Public Health and Quarantine Committee a bill by Assemblyman Charles J. Wagner, designed to protect dogs from vivisection. Only seventeen members voted to bring the measure to the floor, with fifty-four opposing. . . . The committee tabled the bill when physicians and dentists urged its defeat on the ground it is an anti-vivisection measure in disguise. They argued an anti-vivisection act would prevent medical science from performing experiments necessary for the health of the human race." (*Sacramento Bee*, May 11, 1935.)

"Testimony of a bevy of pretty girls and a 'fashion show' which failed to have its première resulted in the conviction of F. J. Miller, self-styled doctor and radio artist on petty theft charges in Police Judge Chris B. Fox's court yesterday. He will be sentenced on Monday. According to police, Miller advertised for models to work in a 'fashion show' he was promoting. Seventy-five girls applied. Among them was Ann Pendleton. Miller, she said, offered her the job of 'show manager,' then he requested payment of a \$20 bond. She paid the money. Marie Haug was offered a position of 'secretary,' with the proviso that a \$50 bond be paid. Lorraine Colbert . . . said Miller demanded a \$2.50 bond. Police declared Miller asked for similar payments from other applicants. . . . According to Los Angeles police, Miller served a 180-day jail term there for alleged violation of the State Medical Practice Act. They declared he exhibited papers to show that he was the highly publicized 'Brother Jack' of Aimee Semple McPherson's Angelus Temple radio station. Miller told Oakland police he was a doctor who was graduated from a Vienna University in 1912." (*Oakland Tribune*, April 26, 1935.) (Previous entries, July, 1933, advertising page 21.) According to the California State Division of Criminal Identification and Investigation, he is listed as "Dr. Frank J. Mills, alias Dr. Frank H. B. Miller; Franklin J. Miller, Frank Joseph Miller; Los Angeles, No. 30693-M-11; San Diego, No. 9949-A."

"Walter Beck, Pismo Beach masseur, was found not guilty of violating State medical laws when he was tried before a jury in Justice of Peace L. C. Routzahn's court at Arroyo Grande Thursday. . . ." (*San Luis Obispo Telegram*, April 19, 1935.)

"Dr. Charles O. Long, formerly a physician and surgeon in Calapatria, was arrested in Phoenix Sunday on a narcotic charge and is being held in jail there

* The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6.

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